

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT SCHEDULED TAX RELIEF SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED OR REPEALED

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we made a promise to the American taxpayer last year when Congress worked together with the President to return a portion of the excessive taxes the government collected. Now it seems some are calling for Congress to break that commitment and reverse some of the tax refunds. It is bad enough when the government collects too many taxes. But it is even worse when the government tries to take back money for the second time—money we have already promised to return.

Mr. Speaker, I have had hundreds of my constituents from the Fourth District of Kansas tell me that they were so grateful for the tax relief signed into law last year. I would hate to have to tell them that Congress has changed its mind, that we are not really going to return as much money as we originally agreed to do.

Taxpaying families pay too much as it is. Rather than raise taxes, we need to affirm that the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 was good for all Americans last year, and it is still good for all Americans this year. Congress worked hard with the President, in a bipartisan fashion, to return some of the excessive taxes to the working people of America. And we should declare that the tax relief should go on as scheduled over the next decade. More than that, Mr. Speaker, Congress should make the tax cuts permanent.

Today I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 312, the resolution that affirms tax relief for all taxpayers. The American people need to know that we are serious about our commitments. And especially during this time of economic recession, we must declare our resolve to the hard-working men and women who pay taxes that we will not break our promise. We will not raise your taxes.

Mr. Speaker, keep the tax cuts in place.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL
FRANZBLAU

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. Michael Franzblau, for his many accomplishments. Chief among them is his pursuit of justice as manifested in his efforts to expose Nazi war criminals with particular emphasis on those in the medical pro-

fession. Dr. Franzblau's persistence in revealing the misdeeds of Dr. Hans Joachim Sewering of Bavaria demonstrates this dedication. Sewering is known to have murdered infants and children in a doctor-drive project "To Cleanse the Fatherland." A World War II veteran and an avowed enemy of perverted medical research, Dr. Franzblau successfully lobbied the AMA to back efforts to expose Sewering, leading to his resignation as President-elect of the World Medical Association. Michael Franzblau was also instrumental in developing legislation, H. Res. 557, that I sponsored, calling for an investigation into Sewering's war crimes; H. Res. 557 passed the House unanimously in 1998.

Dr. Franzblau had a full medical practice in Marin (Dermatology) and was a retired Professor of Dermatology at the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco. He has lectured there and elsewhere on the ethics of health care in the Nazi era. Married to Donna Garfield Franzblau for 47 years and the father of three now grown children, Dr. Michael Franzblau has found the time to dedicate himself to other medical causes locally, nationally, and abroad. These include service on California's Medical Quality Review Committee, American Medical Association, and Marin Medical Society; international humanitarian work for Project Hope in Peru, Alliance for Health in Mexico, and a fact finding mission to Ethiopia regarding medical care for 26,000 Ethiopian Jews; assisting in the establishment of the Marin Community Clinic; and authoring bills for the California State Legislature to regulate tanning facilities and to exclude physician participation in executions at San Quentin. The American Cancer Society awarded him for arranging free skin cancer screening clinics in Marin. Dr. Franzblau also served his community on the United Way and Terra Linda Community Services Board.

Dr. Franzblau has devoted his considerable energy to Jewish causes. He served on the Anti-Defamation League, American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Jewish Community Federation Missions to Israel, Maimonides Society (Marin and Sonoma), and the Marin Jewish Community Center. His passion and dedication have earned him a number of awards, including "The Truth and Justice Award" of the Anti-Defamation League and the "Louis D. Brandeis Award" of the Zionist Organization of America.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Franzblau is an exemplary citizen and a model of the Hippocratic ideal. His dedication to important causes of justice and humanity, reinforced by the persistent hard work required to accomplish his goals, have earned him the admiration and respect of his community. Dr. Franzblau has long been a university lecturer, but his most important lesson to us goes far beyond the classroom: The health of the individual and the health of society are integrally related, and both are the responsibility of the physician.

ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS ARE NEEDED

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge that a conference on patient protection legislation be called immediately. The House passed this bill last year and the delay in its enactment is impacting people in my state and beneficiaries in my district. In particular, a recent unfortunate event in California only illustrates the need for timely action on patients' bill of rights legislation, particularly my amendment on association health plans (AHPs).

For several years, Sunkist, the world-renowned citrus and agriculture grower, contracted for a health benefit plan for its growers and workers. The SGP Benefit Plan, a multiple employer welfare arrangement, was regulated under California insurance law, which had some provisions for cash reserves and other protections.

Late last year, the SGP Benefit Plan collapsed and filed for bankruptcy. As a result more than 23,000 participants, including 4,000 Kern and Tulare county beneficiaries, were left without direct health coverage. This interruption of care troubles me, especially since timely passage of the House patient protection bill, supported by President Bush and bipartisan House Members, could have prevented the situation these families are facing today.

Under the House bill, these multiple employer welfare arrangements would be classified as AHPs and be subject to strict solvency standards, including requirements that AHPs have an indemnified back-up plan to prevent unpaid claims in the event of a plan termination, quarterly procedures to demonstrate financial health, and surplus reserve requirements that are on par or greater than similar state law.

Along with requiring higher standards for multiple employer welfare arrangements and other similar employer pool arrangements, the added benefit of my AHP legislation is that it could increase access to health care by reducing burdens and costs employer groups face from multiplicitous and divergent state mandates. Since AHPs would help small businesses work together to purchase health care for their employees and families, according to one study of this legislation, AHPs could reduce the number of uninsured Americans by an estimated 8.5 million people. This is especially timely, since the recent recession and terrorist attacks have affected national employment, thus having an effect on the health care of Americans who depend on employer-sponsored coverage.

In the 21st District of California that I represent, the unemployment rates in Kern and Tulare Counties recently hit 11 percent and 16 percent, respectively. With the District's dependence on agriculture, oil, dairy, and other small business, the potential for AHPs to help

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.